IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 7 as follows. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (original) A fuel injector comprising:

a first tubular member adapted to contain a hydraulic actuator, the first tubular member being provided with a key way;

a second tubular member adapted to contain a metering nozzle, the second tubular member contiguously abutting the first tubular member, the second tubular being provided with a second key way, the first key way and the second key way being substantially aligned; and

a curvilinear member abutting the first and second tubular members, the curvilinear member having at least a portion adapted to be disposed in the first and second key ways.

2. (original) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portion is at least a first end and a second end of the curvilinear member.

3. (original) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the first end and the second end of the curvilinear member comprises a resilient member.

4. (original) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 2, wherein the curvilinear member includes a circular band.

5. (original) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 2, wherein the portion includes a first end and a second end of the curvilinear member.

6. (original) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 5, wherein the curvilinear member includes a circular band.

7. (currently amended) A method of positioning elements within a fuel injector, the method comprising:

providing a first tubular element with a first groove disposed thereon, a second tubular element with a second groove disposed thereon;

aligning the first groove with the second groove by abutting an end of the first tubular element with an end of the second tubular element; and

preventing movement of the first groove relative to the second groove by inserting a member in the first groove and the second groove.

8. (previously presented) The method of positioning as claimed in claim 7, wherein the member is a curvilinear member and the preventing includes inserting a portion of the curvilinear member into the first and second grooves about at least a portion of a circumference of the first and second tubular members.

9. (previously presented) The method of positioning as claimed in claim, 8 wherein the curvilinear member comprises a resilient portion.

10. (previously presented) The method of positioning as claimed in claim 7, wherein the member is a curvilinear member and the preventing movement includes inserting both ends of the curvilinear member into the first and second grooves.

11. (original) The method of positioning as claimed in claim 9, wherein the preventing movement includes inserting a resilient member into the first and second grooves of the first and second tubular members.

12. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portion includes a key portion fitting into a key way of the first and second tubular members.

13. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the key portion is ~~a~~ an inwardly turned first end abutting an inwardly turned second end of the curvilinear member in the key way of the first and second tubular members.

14. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 12, wherein a portion of the key way accommodating the key portion is deeper than the key portion.

15. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the key portion includes a first end of the curvilinear member and the curvilinear member extends partially about the circumference of the first and second tubular members.

16. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the key portion includes a resilient circular shaped end fitting into a v-shaped segment of the key way.

17. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 12, wherein the curvilinear member includes a stamped portion extending into the key way of one of the first and second tubular members to maintain a grip on the first and second tubular members.

18. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second key ways are about a circumference of the first and second tubular members.

19. (previously presented) The fuel injector as claimed in claim 1, wherein the curvilinear member has at least a portion adapted to be disposed substantially about the circumference of the first and second tubular members within the first and second key ways.

20. (previously presented) A fuel injector, comprising:

a first body portion having an end with a first groove extending substantially about a circumference thereabout;

a second body portion having an end with a second groove extending substantially about a circumference thereabout, the ends of the first and second body portions being in abutting contact such that the first groove and the second groove are in substantially alignment; and

a member positioned in at least a portion of the first and second grooves to retain the first body portion and the second body portion in alignment.